



Dear Chair Novotny and Members,

The six undersigned crime victims' coalitions write today in concern over HF16. Collectively, we represent crime victims' service providers in every county of the state. Our advocates work with crime victims from all walks of life, and they do commonly work with undocumented survivors of violent crime.

We are concerned that this legislation may make survivors of crime - including domestic and sexual violence, child abuse, and general crime - more vulnerable. Undocumented survivors are frequently afraid of contacting emergency services, including law enforcement, when they are subject to crimes because of the fear of deportation. This fear is often enough to prevent a survivor from accessing critical resources. Abusive partners, employers, and family members further isolate victims/survivors of violence by using immigration status to maintain power and control.

Even when a survivor is on a visa or other documented status, this bill could harm survivors. Abusive partners, family members, and employers will sometimes attempt to maintain control over the identifying documents of a victim/survivor. If a survivor is on a work or student visa, and must maintain their employment or student status, leaving an abusive family or employment situation becomes more difficult because the immigrant-survivor will have much harder time than a citizen-survivor would have in relocating if necessary. Doing so may result in loss of status, and open them up the immigration consequences of this and other laws.

Sometimes an undocumented person is not a victim of crime, but instead a key witness to a crime. Without confidence that their participation in the justice process will not cause them harm, these witnesses may be reluctant to cooperate with an investigation.

By removing the ability for undocumented people to interact with any form of government authority in Minnesota without worrying about immigration enforcement, HF16 would cause victims and survivors to have even fewer options to access resources and safety. This fear would impede the willingness of survivors to participate in our justice and law enforcement systems. It would also create an avenue for even further exploitation of immigrant Minnesotans, who already face a myriad of barriers to full participation in society. We urge you to vote no on this bill, and work to increase a survivor's options, not decrease them.

Thank you,

**Guadalupe Lopez** Executive Director  
Violence Free Minnesota

**Cinnamon Bankey** Executive Director  
Mending the Sacred Hoop

**Kenosha Alexander** Interim Executive Director  
Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault

**Nicole Matthews** CEO  
Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition

**Marcia Milliken** Executive Director  
Minnesota Children's Alliance

**Bobbi Holtberg** Executive Director  
Minnesota Alliance on Crime